



Funded by  
  
Department  
for Education



# £1.1m

award from  
Construction  
Skills Fund  
for Procure Plus





# £1.1m Award for Procure Plus

A multi-million pound fund to help tackle the construction skills shortage was launched by the Skills Minister Anne Milton on the 18th June 2018, and at Procure Plus we are delighted to have been awarded £1.1m from the fund. The fund is part of the government's 'National Retraining Scheme', seeking to provide the training employers want to help those out of work, or at risk of redundancy, to start new careers.

Procure Plus is one of only three Construction Skills Fund projects in the Northwest of England.

Funded by the Department for Education the pilot scheme aims to inform larger policy developments (National Retraining Scheme and T-Levels). The Construction Skills Fund (CSF) aims to increase the number of people trained in construction, tackle the skills shortage and help build the homes and infrastructure England needs.

## KPI's of the fund include:

- 13,000 people trained across UK
- Project target of 30% moving into employment (at Procure Plus we are targeting to have 50% moving into employment)
- It will be independently reviewed by Institute for Employment Studies to validate these measures.

## Procure Plus aims to:

- Develop an on-site training hub
- Deliver entry pathways for those currently unemployed
- Creation of pathways for career switchers and those under-represented in the construction workforce

# Our Training Hub

Working with B4 Box to deliver our training, our approach will be 2 fold – non-trade training will be delivered in a variety of community locations around the region. Employers are seeking candidates with ‘qualities, not qualifications’, and so non-trade training will include personal branding, communication and personal presentation skills. Candidates will complete a skills needs analysis, and functional skills, where necessary will be offered (funded outside the CSF funding). All candidates will receive a ‘better off back to work’ calculation, to ensure that they understand the financial implications of gaining employment.

Trade training will be delivered in a state of the art, purpose built and truly mobile

training facility. This will be located in the community. Whilst the facility can be moved, it will serve its purpose best when it can be used to support a large cohort, or several cohorts, over a period of time. Delivery will be blended with non-trade training.

A key criterion is that training must have been undertaken before employment starts, jobs must commence within 3 months of the training being completed and candidates must remain in work for 3 months.

Employers engaged will be encouraged to visit training locations towards the end of the training delivery. This will enable them to be involved in the screening of potential candidates

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## **Skills Minister Anne Milton said:**

For our economy to thrive we need everyone, regardless of their age or background, to be able to get the training and the skills they need to make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead.

The Government has committed to building 300,000 new homes a year by the mid-2020s and we want to make sure that we are investing in the UK skills base to deliver this.

A career in construction offers the chance for many people to establish and grow their own business.

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# Recruitment of Candidates

The majority of candidates will be recruited via local community groups who specialise in working with those who have experienced barriers to work. In addition, LEPs and local authorities may inform partners of employers making redundancies, and we will then engage, either directly or via a local community group, with those considering changing career and looking to the construction industry.



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**Kate Parker,  
Senior Regeneration Manager  
at Procure Plus, commented:**

The Construction Skills Fund is a milestone scheme for the sector and provides a significant investment in skills and training.

Whilst we appreciate the main goal of the project is to ensure people are trained to enter the sector, PP will only commence training once jobs have been identified and agreed by contractors, ensuring we are working toward a goal, an approach we have always applied to our training model.

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creating value for our communities

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